

ON SOME BATS OBTAINED IN THE SURAT AND THANA DISTRICTS BY MR. R. C. WROUGHTON.

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Mr. R. C. Wroughton, Conservator of Forests, has recently sent to the British Museum, through the Bombay Natural History Society, a small collection of bats from the Surat and Thana districts, and although only six species are represented, one of them is new, and I have therefore thought it worth while to give a list of all the species sent. It may be noted that these are the first bats received from India made up as proper skins, with measurements and skulls, and are, therefore, proportionally acceptable. I venture to hope that other British naturalists in India will follow Mr. Wroughton's excellent example, for similar specimens from all localities are much wanted.

1. MEGADERMA LYRA, Geoff.

a—c. Kim, Surat. 22nd April, 1897.

2. PIPISTRELLUS * ABRAMUS, Temm.

a—e. Pareli, Thana. 28th April and 1st May, 1897.

3. PIPISTRELLUS DORMERI, Dobs.

a. Mandvi, Surat. 10th April, 1897.

About the proper allocation of this rare bat there has been much difference of opinion, Dobson first forming a special genus—*Scotozous* for its reception and afterwards considering the latter merely as a sub-genus of "*Vesperugo*." Blanford, in the "Mammals of India," places it in *Nycticejus* (*i.e.*, *Scotophilus*). Both the foundation of *Scotozous* and its reference to *Nycticejus* were due to its asserted possession of only a single upper incisor on each side. But a careful examination of the two

* The name *Pipistrellus*, used by Dobson in many of his earlier papers on Indian Bats, but afterwards abandoned by him in favour of *Vesperugo*, proves to have a superior claim to adoption over the latter, as it dates from 1829 ("Kaup, Entwick. Europ. Thiere," p. 98), while *Vesperugo* was only founded in 1839.

specimens obtained by Mr. Blanford at Chanda, Berar, and mentioned both by him and Dobson, shows that they do possess second incisors external to the median pair. These teeth are excessively minute, and can scarcely be of functional importance, and are probably deciduous, for Mr. Wroughton's specimen has no trace of them. The condition of the type it is unfortunately impossible to determine, for its premaxilla have been wholly broken away.

Further specimens of this interesting bat are much to be desired, in order that its normal dentition may be definitely ascertained.

4. SCOTOPHILUS KUHLII, Leach.

a—b. Mandvi, Surat. 10th April, 1897.

c. Pareli, Thana. 28th April, 1897.

5. SCOTOPHILUS WROUGHTONI, sp. n.

a. ♀. Kim, Surat. 21st April, 1897.

General characters as in *S. kuhlii*, but size much smaller, and without yellowish suffusion in the fur.

Ears of medium size, their inner margin evenly convex, their outer slightly concave below the tip, then slightly convex, continued below into a long rounded lobe in front of the base of the tragus. Tragus rather narrow, its inner margin concave, its outer with an angular lobe at the base succeeded by an emargination, above which it is strongly convex, curving round to the narrow tip; its anterior face with a distinct ridge across it, as in *S. kuhlii*.

Fur close and soft, uniform brownish from above, without any tinge of yellowish; the hairs white at their bases and gradually darkening to the brownish tips. Top of muzzle darker brown. Undersurface very pale fawn, almost white.

Skull and dentition apparently quite as in *S. kuhlii*, apart from the much smaller size. Last upper molar of the narrow shape characteristic of true *Scotophilus*.

Dimensions of the type, an adult female, measured in the flesh by collector :—

Forearm, 50 mm. (=1.96 in.)

Head and body, 75; tail, 40; hind foot, 11; ear, 9 mm.

Skull, basal length in middle line 13·7, greatest breadth 13, combined lengths of upper premolar and first two molars 4·7, front of lower canine to back of m_3 7·3.

Type.—B. M. 97, 6, 8, 12.

This bat may be readily distinguished from *Scotophilus kuhlii* by its much smaller size and the absence of a yellowish suffusion in the colour, while from *S. emarginatus*, of about the same size, it differs by the presence of a ridge across its tragus, by its ear not being markedly emarginated and by the different colour of its fur.

It is perhaps most nearly allied to the African *S. nigrita*, of which it may be the Indian representation, but is distinguished by its smaller size and whitish belly.

The discovery of so marked a new species as *Scotophilus wroughtoni* shows how far from being worked out the bats of India are. I have ventured to name the species in honour of Mr. Wroughton, to whom mammalogical science is already indebted for the discovery of the peculiar pale squirrel described by Mr. Blanford in this number of the Journal.

6. TAPHOZOUS LONGIMANUS, Hardw.

a. ♂. Mandvi, 2nd April, 1897.